

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating in a mammalian subject an autoimmune condition, said method comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of an IL-12 antagonist.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said autoimmune condition is promoted by an increase in levels of a cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF- α or IFN- γ .
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said autoimmune condition is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune pulmonary inflammation, Guillain-Barre syndrome, autoimmune thyroiditis, insulin dependent diabetes melitis and autoimmune inflammatory eye disease.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said autoimmune condition is multiple sclerosis.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said IL-12 antagonist is an antibody immunoreactive with IL-12.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said antibody is administered in a dose of from about 0.05 to about 25 mg/kg.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said antibody is administered in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said antagonist is administered in a dose of about 0.05 to about 25 mg/kg.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said antagonist is administered in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. A method for treating in a mammalian subject an autoimmune condition, said method comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of IL-12.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the development of said autoimmune condition is promoted by an increase in levels of a cytokine selected from the group consisting of TNF- α or IFN- γ .

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said autoimmune condition is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune pulmonary inflammation, Guillain-Barre syndrome, autoimmune thyroiditis, insulin dependent diabetes melitis and autoimmune inflammatory eye disease.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said autoimmune condition is insulin-dependent diabetes melitis.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein said IL-12 is administered at about 0.001 to about 1000 $\mu\text{g/kg}$.

15. The method of claim 10 wherein said IL-12 is administered in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.